In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 3 and 9, without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A tire/wheel assembly in which a run-flat core is inserted into a cavity formed between a pneumatic tire and a rim of a wheel, the run-flat core including a pair of elastic rings which are disposed on the rim respectively along bead portions of the pneumatic tire, and a circular shell which stretches between the elastic rings and extends in the tire circumferential direction, wherein a sound absorbing member is provided to the circular shell,

wherein, for the purpose of providing the sound absorbing member to the circular shell, a band, to which the sound absorbing member is attached, is wound around the circular shell, and thus the band is clamped to the circular shell.

2. (Original) The tire/wheel assembly according to claim 1, wherein a porous material having a tear strength of not less than 4.5N/cm and a sound absorption coefficient of not less than 5% at 200Hz is used as the sound absorbing member.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims ~~1 to 3~~1 to 2, wherein the sound absorbing member is impregnated with a lubricant.

5. (Currently Amended) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims ~~1 to 3~~ 1 to 2, wherein:

the sound absorbing member provided to the circular shell is covered with a film so that the sound absorbing member is in a state of having a reduced volume; and

the film is removed after the run-flat core is housed inside the pneumatic tire.

6. (Currently Amended) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims ~~1 to 3~~ 1 to 2, wherein:

a width of the sound absorbing member is not smaller than 30% of a width of the run-flat core, and is not larger than the maximum width of the cavity; and

a thickness of the sound absorbing member in the tire radial direction is 10mm to 100mm.

7. (Currently Amended) A run-flat core which is inserted into a cavity formed between a pneumatic tire and a rim of a wheel, the run-flat core including a pair of elastic rings disposed on the rim respectively along bead portions of the pneumatic tire, and a circular shell which stretches between the elastic rings and extends in the tire

circumferential direction, wherein a sound absorbing member is provided to the circular shell,

wherein, for the purpose of providing the sound absorbing member to the circular shell, a band, to which the sound absorbing member is attached, is wound around the circular shell, and thus the band is clamped to the circular shell.

8. (Original) The run-flat core according to claim 7, wherein a porous material having a tear strength of not less than 4.5N/cm and a sound absorption coefficient of not less than 5% at 200Hz is used as the sound absorbing member.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The run-flat core according to any one of claims ~~7 to 9~~7 to 8, wherein the sound absorbing member is impregnated with a lubricant.

11. (Currently Amended) The run-flat core according to any one of claims ~~7 to 9~~7 to 8, further comprising a film that covers the sound absorbing member, wherein the sound absorbing member provided to the circular shell is covered with athe film so that the sound absorbing member is in a state of having a reduced volume.

12. (Currently Amended) The run-flat core according to any one of claims ~~7 to 9~~7 to 8, wherein:

a width of the sound absorbing member is not smaller than 30% of a width of the run-flat core, and is not larger than the maximum width of the cavity; and

a thickness of the sound absorbing member in the tire radial direction is 10mm to 100mm.